

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of modifying phone numbers, stored in an electronic
2 phonebook of an electronic device, the method comprising the steps of:

3 receiving, in the electronic device, a change information comprising a
4 change prefix and a change criterion;

5 receiving, in the electronic device, a modification information;

6 searching the electronic phonebook to find one or more an affected
7 phone numbers using said change information; and

8 modifying a portion of at least one of said one or more affected phone
9 number using said modification information, if said one or more affected
10 phone numbers are found in the electronic phonebook.

1 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of receiving change
2 information comprises a step of receiving said change information from a
3 user.

1 3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of receiving change
2 information further comprises step of receiving a phone number change table
3 comprising said change information from a database.

1 4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the step of receiving said phone
2 number change table comprises a step of receiving said phone number
3 change table from an internal database of the electronic device.

1 5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the step of receiving phone
2 number change table from said internal database further comprises a step of
3 updating said internal database using an external database.

1 6. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the step of receiving change
2 information further comprises a step of extracting said change information
3 from said phone number change table.

1 7. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the step of receiving said phone
2 number change table further comprises a step of receiving said phone
3 number change table from an external database.

1 8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the step of receiving phone
2 number change table from said external database comprises a step of
3 updating said internal database using said external database.

1 9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of searching further
2 comprises a step of generating a list of said affected phone numbers using
3 said change criterion then narrowing said list of said affected phone number
4 using said change prefix.

1 10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of searching further
2 comprises a step of generating a list of said affected phone number using said
3 change prefix then narrowing said list of said affected phone number using
4 said change criterion.

1 11. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of searching further
2 comprises the step of identifying one or more incomplete phone numbers that
3 match the change criterion but do not have said change prefix.

1 12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of searching further
2 comprises the step of adding said change prefix to at least one said
3 incomplete phone numbers not having said change prefix.

1 13. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of modifying
2 comprises the step of modifying a portion of all said affected phone numbers
3 using said modification information, if one or more of said affected phone
4 numbers are found in the electronic phonebook.

1 14. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic device
2 comprises a mobile phone.

1 15. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic device
2 comprises a personal digital assistant.

1 16. An electronic device, the electronic device comprising:

2 a memory having an electronic phonebook, the electronic phonebook
3 for storing a plurality of phone numbers;

4 a processor coupled to the said memory, said processor for receiving
5 change information comprising a change prefix and a change criterion; said
6 processor further receiving a modification information, for searching the
7 electronic phonebook to find one or more an affected phone numbers using
8 said change information, and for modifying a portion of at least one of said
9 one or more affected phone number using said modification information, if
10 said one or more said affected phone numbers found in the electronic
11 phonebook.

1 17. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

2 an input device coupled to said processor; and

3 said processor further receives said change information from said input
4 device.

1 18. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor
2 further receives a phone number change table comprising said change
3 information from a database.

1 19. The electronic device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said database
2 comprises an internal database stored in said memory of the electronic
3 device.

1 20. The electronic device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said processor
2 further updates said internal database using an external database.

1 21. The electronic device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said processor
2 further extracts said change information from said phone number change
3 table.

1 22. The electronic device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said database
2 comprises an external database stored in said memory of the electronic
3 device.

1 23. The electronic device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said processor
2 further updates said internal database using said external database.

1 24. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor
2 further generates a list of said one or more affected phone number using said
3 change criterion then narrows said list of said affected phone number using
4 said change prefix.

1 25. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor
2 further generates a list of said one or more affected phone number using said
3 change prefix then narrows said list of said affected phone number using said
4 change criterion.

1 26. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor
2 further identifies one or more incomplete phone numbers that match the
3 change criterion but do not have said change prefix.

1 27. The electronic device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said processor
2 further adds said change prefix to at least one of said one or more incomplete
3 phone numbers not having said change prefix.

1 28. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor
2 further modifies a portion of all said one or more affected phone numbers

1 29. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electronic
2 device comprises a mobile phone.

1 30. The electronic device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electronic
2 device comprises a personal digital assistant.

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